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5 March 2014

Mr Andrew Cartledge
Headteacher
St Andrew's CofE Junior School
Hadfield Road
Hadfield
Glossop
SK13 2DR

Dear Mr Cartledge

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Andrew's CofE Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 4 March 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in January 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure that the action plans drawn up to tackle the areas for improvement from the inspection make clear how the school will evaluate the success of initiatives
- implement fully the new approach to tracking the progress of the pupils
- carry out the external review of the school's use of the pupil premium.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, members of the senior leadership team and representatives of the governing body. I held a discussion with the special educational needs coordinator and a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I visited all

classrooms and spoke with pupils about the school. The school improvement and action plans were evaluated.

Context

There have been no important changes at the school since the inspection, but the headteacher will retire at the end of April 2014. The school is undergoing major refurbishment works, which are set to continue for several months.

Main findings

You drew up action plans for each of the areas for improvement promptly after the inspection and you have begun several relevant initiatives focused on those areas. For example, you have changed your approach to marking the pupils' work and in using targets with the pupils, particularly in mathematics. However, the pupils are still unsure about their targets for mathematics. As a result, the targets are not helping the pupils to improve their work.

A key initiative has been a change to the way that you check the progress made by the pupils. The new approach has already enabled you to get a more-accurate and more-detailed view of the progress of some pupils, particularly some who are not making enough progress. As a result, you have improved provision for pupils with special educational needs. However, you have not got the system up and running fully and so do not have the same detail about the progress of all of the pupils.

The governing body is providing a good level of challenge to the school, asking pertinent questions of the school's leaders. It has identified correctly that the action plans drawn up by the school do not make clear how progress with the improvement initiatives will be evaluated. The external review of the school's use of the pupil premium (additional funding from the government) has not taken place yet.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

Effective support from the local authority has enabled the school to identify suitable initiatives that are beginning to result in improvements at the school. It has also been helpful to the governing body in understanding the current performance of the school, so that it has been able to provide suitable challenge.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire, and to the Director of Education for Derby Diocese.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector